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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,835	10/20/2003	Stefan Thiesen	32140-191339	9919

26694 7590 11/15/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRINH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,835

Applicant(s)

THIESEN ET AL.

Examiner

Trinh T Nguyen

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 100 57 673 (DE'673; please refer to corresponding U.S. 6,536,351 for a complete translation).

For claim 1, DE'673 discloses a fragment projectile comprising: a projectile casing (5) having a hollow interior space; heavy metal fragments (4) filling the hollow space; an ejector charge (5) disposed at the rear of the hollow space to eject the fragments from the projectile casing, when activated, during the flight of the projectile, the ejector charge causing the projectile casing to rupture at most at an opening in the front of the projectile casing through which the fragments are ejected; and means (3) for activating the ejector charge at a desired time during the flight of the projectile.

DE'673 lacks the teaching that the fragments filling at least half of the hollow space. However, whether the fragments filling at least one fourth or one sixth or half of the hollow space is a matter of design choice, since applicant's specification is silent that this particular claimed feature solves any problems or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the amount of

Art Unit: 3644

fragments that taught in DE'673. Furthermore, note that in paragraph [0006] of applicant's specification, only "the heavy metal fragments at least partially filling the hollow space" is required.

For claim 2, DE'673 further discloses the means for activating, activates the charge at a predetermined time during the flight of the projectile.

For claim 3, DE'673 further discloses the means for activating is a timer (see line 41 of col. 2 of U.S. 6,536,351).

For claim 7, DE'673 further discloses the means for activating includes a timer or proximity fuse to ignite the ejector charge (see line 41 of col. 2 of U.S. 6,536,351).

For claim 8, DE'673 further discloses the fragments are spherical (see lines 5-7 and 43-44 of col. 2 of U.S. 6,536,351).

For claim 9, DE'673 further discloses the fragments are formed of tungsten heavy metal (see lines 5-7 and 43-44 of col. 2 of U.S. 6,536,351).

3. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 100 57 673 (DE'673) in view of Feldmann (U.S. 4,970,960).

DE'673, as described above, discloses most of the claimed invention except for indicating that the fragment projectile is a subcaliber projectile provided with a propelling cage sabot.

Feldmann teaches a fragment projectile (12 in Figure 1, 24 in Figures 2 & 3, 41 in Figure 4, and Figures 9 & 10) which is a subcaliber projectile provided with a propelling cage sabot (14, 16). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the fragment projectile of DE'673 into

Art Unit: 3644

a subcaliber projectile with a propelling cage sabot, in a similar manner as taught in Feldmann, in order to provide a projectile with a desirable ballistic efficiency and high hit probability characteristics.

For claim 5, DE'673 as modified by Feldmann (emphasis on DE'673) further discloses the fragments are spherical (see lines 5-7 and 43-44 of col. 2 of U.S. 6,536,351).

For claim 6, DE'673 as modified by Feldmann (emphasis on DE'673) further discloses the fragments comprise tungsten heavy metal (see lines 5-7 and 43-44 of col. 2 of U.S. 6,536,351).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 8/16/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. The examiner agreed with the applicant regarding the reference DE'673 discloses an explosive charge 5 that ruptures the casing at many points. Therefore, note that many points would include the opening in the front of the casing.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 3644

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trinh T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9082. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on (703) 305-7421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER